The section on education and legislation of the American Pharmaceutical Association devoted the greater portion of the available time to the discussion of laws relating to poisons and habit-forming drugs. A lengthy paper on the nature of poisons elicited considerable discussion, and the suggestion was made that it might be possible to define poisons in the form of toxic units per gram of animal.

The reports of the representatives of the American Pharmaceutical Association to the American Drug Trade Conference elicited considerable discussion on the desirability, practicability, and need for Federal legislation to control the sale of narcotic drugs, and appreciation was expressed of the work done by the Public Health Service in the compilation of laws relating to the manufacture, sale, and use of poisons and habit-forming drugs.

A communication on the need for uniformity in laws relating to the manufacture and sale of poisons and habit-forming drugs elicited much discussion and evidenced considerable uniformity of opinion in regard to the desirability of correlating the laws relating to these several subjects. The members of the association at the final session indorsed resolutions advanced by the house of delegates and previously adopted by the council of the American Pharmaceutical Association, favoring greater uniformity in laws relating to the manufacture and sale of narcotic drugs; a detail plan for the lessening of poison cases from the use of poison tablets intended for external use; a better law against illegal trade in habit-forming drugs; a law further restricting the sale of methyl alcohol, and a recommendation that the committees of revision of the Pharmacopœia and of the National Formulary indicate toxic drugs. The association also indorsed a recommendation that the revision committees include synonyms in the United States Pharmacopœia and National Formulary and adopted a resolution to the effect that the association is in favor of greater uniformity in connection with pharmacopœial nomenclature, particularly of potent drugs, and advocates the establishment of a commission to bring about this uniformity.

AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

A NOTE REGARDING CERTAIN PAPERS OF PUBLIC-HEALTH INTEREST PRESENTED AT THE MEETING AT ROCHESTER, N. Y., SEPTEMBER 9-13, 1913.

By ATHERTON SEIDELL, Technical Assistant, Hygienic Laboratory, United States Public Health Service.

At the meeting of the American Chemical Society 17 papers were presented before the section on water, sewage, and sanitation. Of these, the papers presented by Prof. Chamot, of Cornell University, and his assistant, Dr. Redfield, upon the value and best conditions for testing for hydrogen-sulphide production in the bacteriological

examination of potable waters, were of much interest from a public-health standpoint. These authors found that in all undoubtedly polluted waters, showing the colon group, a positive test for hydrogen-sulphide-producing bacteria was obtained, thus furnishing a valuable corroborative test for polluted waters. Although colon bacilli in a sample might not condemn the water, a positive test for the hydrogen-sulphide-producing bacteria would show conclusively that the sample was polluted. In 11 per cent of the samples examined the pollution could be positively diagnosed only by the corroborative evidence obtained by the test for the hydrogen-sulphide-producing bacteria.

A paper which appeared of general interest was that upon the "Ventilation of the schools of New York City," presented by Dr. Charles Baskerville. The investigation was undertaken for the board of estimates and awards by a committee. The humidity, temperature, carbon-dioxide content, direction of air currents, number of dust particles, and number of bacteria were determined in several thousand samples of air of typical schools over a period of about six months.

Comparisons were made between artificial ventilating systems and ventilation by way of the windows of the room. Nothing was found which would warrant the recommendation of the installation of the very costly mechanical ventilating systems in the public schools of New York. The results indicated that the question of ventilation is almost entirely one of proper control of temperature and humidity, and, therefore, almost entirely a janitorial problem. The committee recommended the purchase of automatic temperature and humidity recording instruments for use in accurately controlling the efficiency of the school janitors. In regard to the amount of dust it was found that a general parallelism existed between the amount of dust in the inside and outside air. On windy, dusty days the amount found in the schoolrooms was always higher than on quiet, clear days.

In a paper before the general meeting of the society it was pointed out by George A. Soper, of the public works department of New York City, that the profitable utilization of sewage has so far been a failure. The reasons therefor and the difficulties of the problem were discussed. Even a process for sewage disposal which would be self-supporting would be of immense value at the present time. No hopes of early solution of this important problem were expressed.